



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,790	07/13/2001	Chih-Hsien Chung	B-4244 618939-9	4911

7590 09/22/2005

Richard P. Berg, Esq.
LADAS & PARRY
Suite 2100
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679

EXAMINER

HENN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2612

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,790

Applicant(s)

CHUNG, CHIH-HSIEN

Examiner

Timothy J. Henn

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. Applicant's arguments concerning the title are not persuasive. The title "Image Forming Apparatus" is not considered to be clearly descriptive of the claimed subject matter since the claimed subject matter primarily concerns a detachable device for triggering a camera according to the output of a sensor, therefore the objection to the title will be repeated.

Response to Amendment

3. The replacement abstract filed 28 June 2005 is acceptable and overcomes the previous objections the abstract which are hereby withdrawn.

Specification

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Art Unit: 2612

6. Claim 1-7 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isoguchi et al. (US 5,146,353) in view of Sakai et al. (US 5,726,708).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Isoguchi discloses an image forming apparatus (Figure 1) comprising: an interface unit outputting a control signal in a predetermined format to an output unit in accordance with a sensing signal from an audio sensor (Figure 14); and image capturing unit for capturing an image (Figure 5, Item 35) and a driving unit having an input unit receiving the control signal for driving the image capturing unit in accordance with the control signal (e.g. Figure 13; c. 9, ll. 21-63). However, Isoguchi does not disclose a driving unit which is detachably coupled to the interface unit.

Sakai discloses an image forming device in which a microphone and associated audio processing circuitry are detachably coupled to the camera which meets the demand for a reduced size camera and allows the user to record sounds whenever necessary (c. 1, l. 65 - c. 2, l. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the microphone (i.e. audio sensor) of Isoguchi detachable from the image forming apparatus and driving unit in order to reduce the size of the camera as taught by Sakai.

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, note that Sakai discloses the use of first and second coupling apparatus to detachably connect the audio module or "interface unit" to the camera "driving unit" (Figure 2A, Items 20A and 20B; Figure 2B, Items 21A and 21B).

[claim 3]

Regarding claim 3, note that Sakai discloses first and second coupling apparatus which comprise corresponding sticking structures (Figure 2A, Items 20A and 20B; Figure 2B, Items 21A and 21B).

[claim 4]

Regarding claim 4, note that Isoguchi discloses a storage unit for saving the image captured as an image record (Figure 5, Item 45).

[claim 5]

Regarding claim 5, Isoguchi in view of Sakai lack storing an image in a digital format. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to record images in digital format to allow easy transfer of the image to a digital computer system for further processing, printing or display. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recording format of the image of Isoguchi a digital format to allow easy transfer of the images to digital computer systems.

[claim 6]

Regarding claim 6, Isoguchi discloses a control signal comprising an impulse signal (Figure 13).

[claim 12]

Regarding claim 12, Isoguchi discloses an image capturing unit which is a still an electronic still camera, but does not disclose a digital video camera. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to use digital video cameras as image capturing devices in order to obtain digital video signals which can be easily transferred

Art Unit: 2612

to and processed by digital computer systems. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the camera of Isoguchi a digital video camera to obtain digital video signals which can be easily transferred to and processed by digital computer systems.

[claim 13]

Regarding claim 13, Isoguchi discloses an image capturing unit which is a still an electronic still camera, but does not disclose a digital photo camera. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to use digital video cameras as image capturing devices in order to obtain digital photo signals which can be easily transferred to and processed by digital computer systems. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the camera of Isoguchi a digital photo camera to obtain digital video signals which can be easily transferred to and processed by digital computer systems.

[claim 14]

Regarding claim 14, Isoguchi discloses a signal generator for controlling an image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus capturing a control signal in a predetermined format, the signal generator comprising: an audio sensor generating a sensing signal in accordance with audio variations (Figure 13, MICROPHONE INPUT); and an interface device generating a control signal in accordance with the sensing signal (Figure 13; c. c. 9, ll. 21-63). However, Isoguchi does not disclose an interface device which is detachably coupled to the image forming apparatus.

Sakai discloses an image forming device in which a microphone and associated audio processing circuitry are detachably coupled to the camera which meets the demand for a reduced size camera and allows the user to record sounds whenever necessary (c. 1, l. 65 - c. 2, l. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the microphone (i.e. audio sensor) of Isoguchi detachable from the image forming apparatus and driving unit in order to reduce the size of the camera as taught by Sakai.

[claims 15-17]

Regarding claims 15-17, see claims 2, 3 and 6 respectively.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2612

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose telephone number is (571) 272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJH
9/13/2005


THI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER